

proposed by the House and \$10,400,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees do not specify the purposes for these funds, except \$400,000,000 of this amount is made available to carry out section 2403 of this chapter.

The conferees agree to include bill language proposed by the Senate that each county or parish eligible for assistance under the disaster declaration of September 24, 2005, will be treated equally for purposes of cost-share adjustments.

The conferees note the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), recently issued interim policy guidance clarifying that charter schools are eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance Program. The conferees believe this policy should be quickly finalized so it can be distributed to FEMA officials throughout the country as expeditiously as possible, and encourage DHS and FEMA to continue working with the relevant Congressional committees on implementation of this policy.

The conferees concur with language proposed by the House regarding the weekly Disaster Relief Report and the lack of information regarding the assumptions DHS is using to estimate total disaster relief funding needed this fiscal year. Beginning immediately, the conferees direct DHS to include an explanation of the methodology used to calculate estimated yearly allocations by program area and program name. This explanation shall include the total yearly cost estimate, the amount allocated and obligated to date, and a written explanation of the assumptions and methodology used to estimate the total yearly cost.

#### DISASTER ASSISTANCE DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The conferees agree to provide \$279,800,000 to subsidize not to exceed \$371,733,000 in loans for the Special Community Disaster Loans Program authorized in the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005, P.L. 109-88, instead of \$301,000,000 (\$150,000,000 by transfer) as proposed by the House and \$301,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of this total, \$1,000,000 is included for administrative costs. The conferees include bill language proposed by the Senate specifying that loans may be equal to not more than 50 percent of the annual operating budget of the local government in cases where that government has suffered a loss of 25 percent or more in tax revenues due to Hurricanes Katrina or Rita.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

Sec. 2401. The conferees agree to include bill language as proposed by the House and Senate authorizing FEMA to pay for utility costs for those leases negotiated by State and local governments on FEMA's behalf.

Sec. 2402. The conferees agree to include bill language as proposed by the House and Senate amending P.L. 109-90 to allow the National Flood Insurance Fund to pay sufficient interest on the amounts the program has borrowed from the Treasury.

Sec. 2403. The conferees agree to include and modify bill language as proposed by the Senate allowing the Secretary of Homeland Security to consider eligible for funding the costs of alternative housing pilot programs in the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season.

#### CHAPTER 5

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSTRUCTION

The conference agreement provides \$132,400,000 for "Construction", as proposed by both the House and the Senate, for cleanup and facility repair needs at National

Wildlife Refuges related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season. The managers agree that the Service shall, as proposed by the House, repay funds that were transferred from projects that have yet to be completed. These funds were transferred on an emergency basis for initial hurricane response needs and must be repaid so that projects from which they were borrowed can be completed. A technical correction has been made to the repayment language proposed by the House.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

The conference agreement provides \$33,000,000 for the "Historic Preservation Fund" instead of \$3,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$83,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the funds provided, \$3,000,000 is for Section 106 assistance and \$40,000,000 is for disaster relief grants for the preservation, stabilization, rehabilitation, and repair of historic properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and for planning and technical assistance.

These funds are available for obligation until September 30, 2007, as proposed by the House, instead of being available until expended as proposed by the Senate.

As proposed by the Senate, funds for historic preservation grants are available for areas with a Presidential disaster determination associated with Hurricanes Katrina or Rita; are not subject to a non-Federal matching requirement; and no more than 5% may be used for administrative expenses.

The managers expect the National Park Service to award the Section 106 assistance funds to the States without any delay. Of the \$3,000,000 available for Section 106 assistance, at least \$1,500,000 shall be available for the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer. The remaining \$40,000,000 is for grants to State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) as described below.

The managers expect the National Park Service to award disaster relief grant funds to SHPOs in accordance with existing Historic Preservation Fund policies and procedures, except as modified herein, and only after a State has submitted, and the National Park Service has reviewed, an Action Plan Narrative that describes the major tasks to be undertaken with the supplemental grant funds. Each task statement shall describe the major services provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, the problems to be addressed, a preliminary list of proposed projects and their estimated costs, and the expected results.

The National Park Service shall undertake its review of each plan and shall award funds as expeditiously as possible. Preference in making awards shall be given to plans that include: (1) properties located within designated National Heritage Areas; (2) owner-occupied houses; and (3) a demonstrated ability to spend the funds expeditiously. The managers intend that these funds be awarded with an emphasis on individuals who are committed to rebuilding their communities and who otherwise cannot afford the additional costs often associated with historic preservation.

No State shall receive more than 65% of the total available for these grants. There is a 5% limitation on administrative costs. Of the amount available for administrative expenses, up to \$550,000 is available to the National Park Service to expedite awarding and oversight of the funds.

#### CONSTRUCTION

The conference agreement provides \$55,400,000 for "Construction", as proposed by both the House and the Senate, for imme-

diately cleanup and facility repair needs at National Parks related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season.

#### UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$10,200,000 for "Surveys, Investigations, and Research", as proposed by both the House and the Senate, for facility and equipment repair needs related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season and for repayment of advances to other appropriation accounts from which funds were transferred for such purposes.

#### MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE ROYALTY AND OFFSHORE MINERALS MANAGEMENT

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$15,000,000 for "Royalty and Offshore Minerals Management" as proposed by both the House and the Senate. These funds are for costs associated with the temporary relocation of the Minerals Management Service's Gulf of Mexico regional office from Louisiana to Houston, Texas, including purchase of new equipment and temporary office arrangements, other disaster related expenses, and repayment of advances to other appropriation accounts from which funds were transferred for such purposes.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

The conference agreement provides \$6,000,000 for "Environmental Programs and Management", as proposed by both the House and the Senate, for increased environmental monitoring, assessment, and analytical support necessary to protect public health during the ongoing recovery and reconstruction efforts related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season.

#### LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM

The conference agreement provides \$7,000,000 for the "Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program", as proposed by both the House and the Senate, to assess the most immediate underground storage tank needs in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season and to initiate appropriate corrective actions.

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

#### NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

The conference agreement provides \$20,000,000 for the "National Forest System" as proposed by the House instead of \$50,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. As proposed by the House, these funds are only for necessary expenses of debris cleanup and related activities on National Forests affected by Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season.

#### CHAPTER 6

##### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

#### EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The conference agreement includes \$16,000,000 for the reconstruction of two Job Corps facilities in Gulfport, Mississippi and New Orleans, Louisiana. The Senate had proposed \$32,000,000 and the House had no similar provision. The conferees instruct the Department to allocate \$14,000,000 to the Gulfport facility and \$2,000,000 to the New Orleans facility for repairs and rehabilitation of damage due to Hurricane Katrina.